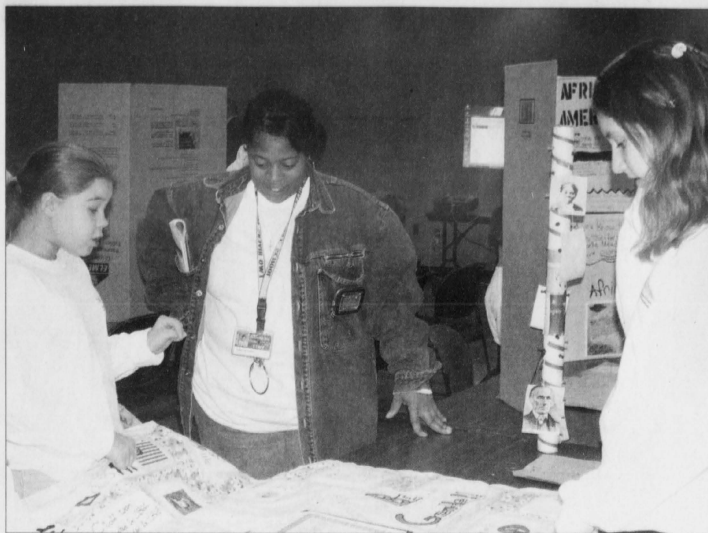


## THE NORTHERNER

Edition 35, Issue 14

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Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2004



Nicole Jones / Assistant Photo Editor

(From left to right) Two Rivers Middle School student Jennifer Dieman explains her freedom project to Two Rivers teacher Samantha Crumes and NKU student Kelly Ashcraft. Dieman and her cousin Nicole Winkler quilted for 11 hours and isolated themselves from distractions.

## Students focus on freedom

### NKU mentors become friends, role models through service learning

By BRIANNA BOBINE  
Layout/Design Editor  
dizzy\_dragonfly@yahoo.com

"There's one of my girls!"  
"Another bus is here."  
"My kids aren't here yet."

Northern Kentucky University student mentors chattered in anticipation as they watched for their 7th grade charges at the Celebration of Freedom-Focused Service Learning (FFSL) held in the University Center on Dec. 4.

Once NKU students located their counterparts, keeping up with the hyperactive 12-year-olds in the growing throng was another matter entirely. One kid scooted by with a nametag plastered on his forehead, daring class between the adults to get one of the T-shirts being handed out to all the students.

The focus of the event was to showcase the freedom projects created by Covington's Two Rivers Middle School students with the help of their NKU mentors.

The event started at about 10 a.m. with the arrival of the Two Rivers students. The students gradually filtered into the Otto M. Budig Theater to hear some quick remarks and a poetry reading. Exceptional faculty and students were also given awards.

"You really didn't know what you were getting yourselves into... how many NKU students were going to be in your classes," said Barbara

Wallace, coordinator of service learning, during her introduction. "You have been exceedingly generous with your time, and with allowing students to come in at all different hours and all different classes. I think our students are richer for it."

The NKU students became mentors by taking any of the five FFSL classes offered in the areas of religion, women's studies, African-American history, social work and English. The courses seek to address literacy, racial issues, and principles of democracy and freedom, while connecting class work with civic and community involvement.

Jibby Brown, a teacher at Two Rivers, couldn't speak because of a case of laryngitis. Wallace said she knew Brown would work herself to the bone. "Not really," Brown whispered hoarsely. "It's a labor of love."

An award was also given to sophomore geography major Diana Mondragon for putting in more than 70 hours of service when her class requirement was only 15.

The single mother of three said, "I wanted to help as many kids as possible while trying not to overburden my own responsibilities. I didn't want to be someone who just came to visit once a week. I wanted to be their friend."

Her Religion in America class was not originally scheduled to participate in FFSL, but was included after registration.

Robert Kenney, who taught the class, said he gave students the



Nicole Jones / Assistant Photo Editor

NKU student Santosh Adhikary helps Two Rivers Middle School student Sean Kievein relate his project to observers.

option of participating in the program instead of doing a presentation or similar class requirement.

Mondragon said she had never heard of the program and was excited when she learned about the opportunity. But the students were not what she expected.

"The students were intelligent and sharp-minded, contradicting their test scores. Most of the students were disrespectful and filled with a great deal of misdirected anger." She thought that their poor academic performance was a result

of behavior and attitude problems. "Most of these kids feel unloved, unimportant and hopeless."

The freedom projects were a culmination of the work the Two Rivers students did throughout the semester with NKU student mentors. "Mentors" are helping the students research their freedom projects," said Wallace. "Many of them have also helped them with their writing portfolios. Literacy is very important."

Everyone viewed the freedom projects. See FREEDOM, page 3

## Sodexho contract outbid

### Chartwells selected as food service provider

By CHRIS VANDI WATERS  
Reporter  
northerner@nku.edu

Northern Kentucky University is in the final stages of signing a new dining contract with Chartwells, a division of the Compass Group, that would take effect next semester and allow students and faculty more flexibility with meals across campus.

"The committee did make the recommendation to begin to work a contract with the Compass Group, and we are in the process of negotiating the final contract, the particulars," said Andy Meeks, director of business operations and auxiliary services. "Barring some complications, the contract is pretty much set."

Both Sodexho and Chartwells submitted proposals and made three-hour presentations. A committee of students and other faculty members subsequently selected Chartwells to fulfill NKU's dining needs. There was one main reason Sodexho wasn't re-signed; Chartwells just had a more attractive proposal to cater NKU's needs.

The new contract begins next semester and students will start to see minimal changes due to the transition period.

"Students may see some small renovations or paint in areas such as the University Center or the Norse Commons Cafeteria, but most of the major changes will be implemented over the summer and into the fall semester," Meeks said.

See DINING, page 3

## Faculty may drop no-shows

By SARAH LOMAN  
Reporter  
northerner@nku.edu

Make sure you set your alarm clock correctly on the first day of class next semester. If you don't show up, you could find out that you've been dropped from the class.

The Professional Concerns Committee (PCC) of Northern Kentucky University recently passed a change of policy regarding whether or not to give faculty the ability to drop a student on the first day of class if they do not show up. This change will begin next semester if the Faculty Senate passes the policy Dec. 10.

There's a couple of reasons for this," said Robert Kempton, assistant professor of chem-

See ATTENDANCE, page 3

View the Norse Poll to see what students think about this new policy.

See page 5.

## Housing sends warning letters to file sharers

By STUART MACKENZIE  
Assistant News Editor  
bigstmac18@hotmail.com

University Housing issued letters Dec. 1 to certain Northern Kentucky University students believed to be illegally downloading copyrighted material in their dorm rooms.

The letters, signed by Director of University Housing Matt Brown, were issued in response to a Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) warning, which cited the IP addresses of six NKU students it said were participating in file sharing.

Gary Pratt, associate provost for Information and Technology, said IT has identified the IP addresses of students who were named by the RIAA complaint and shut off their Internet access.

"We knocked off the addresses so they couldn't access the network," Pratt said, "and when they respond back, we go through the verification and help them clean up their system."

The letter informed the students that they have five working days to contact IT and set up a time to meet with a technician. The technician will locate their IP and MAC addresses, inform them how to delete their illegal files and potentially ban them from file-sharing software.

"This is a serious legal matter," Brown said in the letter, "and I advise (students) to cooperate fully with the university."

Brown said he was just doing some "footwork" for IT and doesn't know why

the number of letters sent was so large when the six offenders identified by the RIAA have already been eliminated from the network.

*"This is a serious legal matter, and I advise (students) to cooperate fully with the university."*

— Matt Brown  
Director of University Housing

got included."

According to Brown, the intention of the letter was to ensure students would call IT so they could get the appropriate information from students to identify

which computer belongs to which student.

"My opinion is that the RIAA kind of strong-arm campuses into acting as an arm of the RIAA to enforce this law, that they are not able to enforce themselves," Brown said. "They threaten universities with legal action; they threatened to sue NKU. They are culpable if they don't take some kind of action."

"So what they do is they have to send out a letter to any student involved or any room that might be involved because they are scared too. IT is scared they don't want to get sued for not doing anything."

"They get these big scary letters from the RIAA... telling them that students using your network are using this kind of activity and if you don't make it stop you can be held legally responsible."

See RIAA, page 3

## INSIDE



The NKU Department of Theatre molds "Romeo and Juliet" into the 1950s.

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Section Editors  
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859.572.5260

Photographs contributed by KRT Campus



# Graduation 101

## 33rd Commencement Exercises on Saturday, Dec. 18 at US Bank Arena

- ☐ • **Graduates** should arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18 enter the assembly areas via the street-level doors off Broadway.
- Pick up your name card which tells you where you'll be seated according to college and degree.
- All personal belongings should be left with guests.
- ☐ • **Guests** should enter at the Concourse level.
- No tickets are necessary, but seating is available on a first come, first serve basis.
- No guests are allowed on the floor.
- Ceremony begins promptly at 10 a.m.
- ☐ • **Professional photographs** will be taken during the ceremony.
- Order announcements at the NKU Bookstore or by calling Jostens at 1-800-353-5299.

- ☐ • **Diplomas** will be mailed after Jan. 31, 2005. To ensure you receive your diploma in a timely manner, **check Norse Express to verify your permanent mailing address.** The permanent address on record will be used as the mailing address for diplomas.
- ☐ **Parking:**
  - East Garage, adjacent to the arena.
  - Western-Southern garages two block north of the arena.
  - Public landing next to the arena
  - Be sure to park in legal parking spots.
- ☐ • Graduates must purchase **academic apparel** at the NKU Bookstore.
- Undergraduate students graduating with honors will receive **cords** to wear with the apparel. Cords can be picked up prior to December 17 or at commencement.
- Graduates must have appropriate **hood.**

Information compiled from the  
NKU Office of the Registrar and NKU Web site

## Dining Continued from page one

Renovations may take place in the Norse Commons cafeteria as early as winter break. Students will notice a difference in food quality in the Norse Commons cafeteria and the home option in the University Center.

The current fast food lines will still be in operation next semester, however there is a possibility that one may be replaced by another over the summer and into the fall semester next year.

"The fast food lines won't change too much because students like them," Meeks said.

He added, "There won't be too many changes in the University Center with the plans for a new student union underway."

Next year students will have more flexibility in meal plans although the final details have not been settled yet. The financial agreements could not be disclosed, however it was suggested that the change was a good fit for NKU as the university moves forward in improving the campus for everyone involved.

Changes for this coming spring semester will include the quality of the food. Research

was conducted over a five to six month period to sample and evaluate the services provided at other campuses to decide what option was best for NKU. "It's one man's opinion, but the committee made several visits, both announced and unannounced, and the food at other schools was pretty good," Meeks said.

Schools that currently have dining services provided by the Compass Group include Ohio Wesleyan University, Towson University, University of Louisville, Miami University, Florida Atlantic University,

Radford University, Marietta College and Wittenberg University.

"The food is pretty good. I like all our options and flexibility," said Sarah Steele, a junior at Ohio Wesleyan.

Currently, Chartwells is setting in and hiring employees, working out vending issues, getting vehicles and preparing to serve customers. "Of all the things I talked to with the Compass Group and on the site Sodexo management will be the only employees to leave, and new management from Chartwells will take over."

"They didn't want to talk

about money, they didn't want to talk about how big Northern Kentucky University is, they didn't want to talk about what kind of vending they would be doing, they just wanted to talk about customer service and how important it is," Meeks said.

It is required that all the current Sodexo employees are kept on staff by the Compass Group unless the employee has reason to not stay on staff. Sodexo management will be the only employees to leave, and new management from Chartwells will take over.

Meetings have already taken place to introduce employees to new management and go over procedures and the particulars of the new agreement. NKU wants to have the smoothest transition possible.

During the last few weeks, all meals will take place as normally scheduled. Traditionally, there has never been a late night meal option for finals week, however Fast for Finals will still take place in the Norse Commons cafeteria Dec. 9 as scheduled. All are encouraged to attend, not just students who live on campus.

## Attendance Continued from page one

istry. "Students are signing up for 18 credit hours when they only need 14 and end up dropping courses, and some students are 'shopping around' and drop all the courses simply to get the financial aid."

Another reason behind the policy is the number of seats available in the lab classrooms, such as Landrum room 103.

There are a very limited number of seats because of the number of computers in the room.

When a student doesn't attend during the first week and then later drops the course, no one else is able to take advantage of the open seat because enrollment is only allowed dur-

ing that first week period.

The policy change reads "...some courses or departments may require a student to attend the first class meeting, or notify the instructor of their expected absence, in order to avoid an immediate, faculty initiated, withdrawal from the course."

There will be help for students who genuinely cannot make it to their first day of classes and still want to take the class. "If a student is dropped by mistake, if for instance they are in the hospital or something, they will be able to get back into the class. We were assured of that by the administrator," said Kempton.

Mary Carol Hopkins, another member of the faculty who sits on the Professional Concerns Committee, said that this isn't really a new policy, it's just one that hasn't been enforced much in the past.

When asked about whether an effort would be made to contact students before they are dropped if this policy went into effect, the faculty said that the feeling among the faculty is that it's up to students to know their own status and should contact faculty ahead of time if they are not coming to class.

Hopkins believes that the university cannot let students stay on the roll only for purposes of financial aid income.

## RIAA Continued from page one

Brown said his office will work directly with IT to identify student violators and determine appropriate sanctions.

"It's an odd situation," Brown said. "This isn't like a student caught breaking a policy like alcohol consumption or noise violation, where our staff goes and confronts it."

"We often don't have the technical expertise to verify student internet activity so we have to rely on IT to provide us with information."

Pratt said he doesn't expect any lawsuits to come from the file-sharing community.

"Those who get the suits

have received multiple sets of notifications – over and over and over again – and either didn't respond, or they also of issues," Pratt said. "We had a handful of the actual complaints, and we dealt with it immediately. My assumption is they don't sue first and ask questions later."

"They notify you, say you better deal with it, and if you don't follow along and do something about it, they follow up and bring up a suit after the fact."

Brown said because of the letters many students would probably stop all illegal actions.

## Corrections

In the Life & Times section of the Dec. 1 issue, Officer Angela Walter of the NKU Police Department was incorrectly identified as a male officer.

On the Viewpoints page, Jamie Wilkinson's photo was incorrectly attributed to Jessica O'Hara's response of the Norse Poll.

The Northerner staff sincerely apologizes for any inconveniences caused by these errors.

## Freedom Continued from page one

projects in the UC Ballroom. Students, vied for attention, pulling spectators over to their respective projects for examination.

Two Rivers students Nicole Winkler and Jennifer Dieman made a quilt that included pictures of abolitionists and free states, ways slaves escaped to freedom, and how runaway slaves identified a "safe house."

It took them 11 hours to sew.

"We avoided any phone calls, any textbooks," Dieman said.

NKU mentors also helped the Two Rivers students read a book called "Bound for the North Star," a collection of true stories about fugitive slaves. All of the students got a copy of the book for free.

Wallace said that NKU students who participated in the program really benefited from the experience. "They're still learning course content, but they're applying it to the huge concept of freedom in a variety of ways, and very specifically to the Underground Railroad," Wallace said.

"When they can apply what they're learning in a real sense and meet these identified needs,

it gives them all sorts of intrinsic values – sense of self-worth, a better understanding of social issues, a learning of tolerance, appreciation for diversity."

Willie Elliott, chair of the social work program, says his students benefited immensely from the mentoring program. "He made our classroom come alive."

He said it is one thing to discuss the ideas of attachment and terminating a relationship, but it's another thing to look a 7th grader in the eye and say, "I won't be seeing you anymore."

While NKU students do benefit, they are also hoping to help these youths learn civil responsibility, improve their writing skills and school work, and become motivated to attend college in the future.

The Two Rivers students are already showing improvement, according to Wallace. The students who participated in the program last semester scored better on their CAT scores than the students who didn't participate.

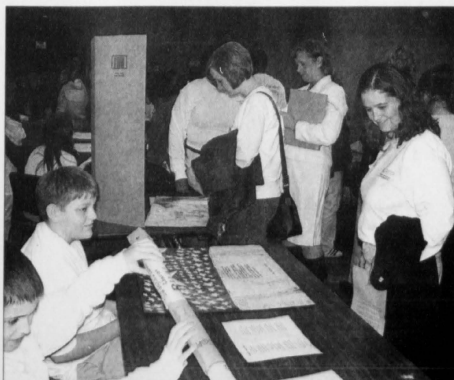
Mundragon said there is a great need for the community to be involved in the schools, especially in the inner city.

"These kids have little adult involvement and supervision in their lives. They are in desperate need of positive adult role models and most importantly to know someone cares about them so they will in turn care about themselves and their futures."

This is the second semester for the freedom-focused classes. The program began as a result of a three-year grant from Learning Services of America, largely the result of work by Prince Brown, the director of the Institute for Freedom Studies.

Brown helped to write and secure the grant, and he also proposed that the theme for the Freedom-Focused Service Learning courses should be the Underground Railroad and its implications.

Freedom-Focused Service Learning is partnered with Covington Independent School District, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Institute for Freedom Studies, and Literacy in Northern Kentucky.



Photographer Name | Photographer

The University Center Ballroom was flooded with students, faculty and family at Covington Two Rivers Middle School students showcased their freedom projects with posters, PowerPoints and even poems.

# gamesextra

## SLIMBONE



BY MIKE MAYDAK

## horoscopes

For the week of Dec. 6-12

By Lasha Seniuk, Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service (KRT)

### ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Love relationships will now expand to include rare home alliances, family discussions or shared business ventures. Many Aries natives will find this week allow long-term friends or relatives to participate more fully in their private lives. Remain dedicated to your own time schedule and all will be well. After Friday, financial restrictions may arrive without warning. Pay close attention to delayed payments and large purchases. Property decisions now require long-term devotion.

### TAURUS (April 21-May 20)

Over the next few days, romantic partners or long-term friends may ask probing questions or challenge group suggestions. Emotional insecurity and social doubt may this week require added diplomacy. Stay focused and expect loved ones to express strong opinions; your patience will be appreciated. Thursday through Sunday long-term relationships may experience relief but intense phase of emotional negotiations. Don't hold back; your needs and sensitivities are valid.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Home routines and family planning are pleasing over the next 5 days. After Monday, expect loved ones to arrange enjoyable private encounters or rare events. Interpret all such attention as a compliment; your public approval may be more important than anticipated. Friday through Sunday also highlight business advancement and revised career strategies. New friends or colleagues may soon propose controversial work partnerships. Trust your instincts; all is well.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Social charisma and emotional influence are high this week. Late Monday, respond quickly to new invitations or suggestive compliments. Someone close may need to use indications of romantic intent or friendly affiliation. Don't be shy; your reaction will set the tone for future promises. After mid-week, bosses, managers or older relatives may ask for detailed financial explanations. Stay alert; records, long-term spending or ongoing expenses are highlighted.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Early this week, a close relative may introduce revised social schedules or new home affairs. Over the next 8 days, loved ones will demand more active involvement in your private life. Respond with enthusiasm; your reactions will be carefully scrutinized. Friday through Sunday business or financial changes are best avoided. At present, key officials and co-workers will not easily accept new ideas. Pace yourself and wait for breakthrough; workplace creativity will soon increase.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Before next week, friends or relatives may be reluctant to participate in planned events. Remain patient but encourage revised social or romantic goals. Over the next 8 days, your emotional influence may be more deeply felt than anticipated. Later this week, a new friendship or workplace relationship may turn briefly romantic. Don't hesitate to express private opinions; potential lovers will respond positively to an honest declaration of long-term expectations.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Fast career gains will now take precedence over home obligations. Late Monday, watch for a surprising business alliance or new job offer to arrive. Many Librans will soon begin a meaningful phase of career risk and public responsibility. Stay alert and ask probing questions; key officials will soon rely heavily on your ability to finalize projects. Wednesday through Saturday romantic relationships are highly favored. Remain focused; new introductions may soon lead to love.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Unique workplace alliances, long-term investments or privately financed business ventures will soon be proven worthwhile. In the coming weeks, many Scorpios will develop new or secondary sources of income; respond quickly to creative proposals and carefully study all paperwork. Thursday through Saturday an old friend or past lover may reappear or ask for revised promises. Refuse to be influenced by yesterday's sentiments; unproductive attachments need to fade.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Physical attraction will be distracting over the next 8 days. Passionate commitments are now highly favored; find creative and meaningful ways to cultivate new relationships. Already attached Sagittarians can expect quick proposals and revised home plans. If so, thoroughly discuss all options; complex family decisions may soon become an ongoing theme. After Friday, business and financial strategies need to change; carefully consider all legal obligations.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

Long-term romantic partnerships will now move steadily forward. After Monday, a brief but intense period of scattered priorities and lost interest will fade; expect friends and lovers to soon discuss serious goals, daily expectations and lasting promises. Passions may be high; watch for unexpected outbursts of emotion. Later this week, a previously silent or moody colleague may express strong opinions. Don't be drawn into group discussion; private agendas are in operation.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Private flirtations will not go unnoticed over the next few days. New colleagues or officials may offer broad compliments this week, subtle emotional promises or rare invitations. Remain receptive but distant; if too quickly begun, complex social or romantic alliances will be easily derailed. Wednesday through Saturday a younger relative may request delicate employment or career advice. Go slow; long-term business goals will soon require revised expectations.

### PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Creativity, family enjoyment and private social requests prove intriguing over the next few days. After Tuesday, expect shared home goals to become an ongoing theme; spend extra time with friends and loved ones. Before January, many Pisceans may be asked to take on added responsibility in the home. Don't hesitate; your devotion is needed. Later this week, plan new business ventures. Stay alert; fast decisions and complex scheduling may soon be necessary.

## classifieds

To place a classified ad: contact Crystal Smith at 859-572-5222

**Intimate Moments** is looking for good communicators to book home parties for our current representatives. Flexible hours, we'll work around your school schedule, inside and outside sales, commission paid for every party booked. Call Karen Kontout today at 513-942-8679.

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST HOMES FOR CHILDREN** requires confidential services at no cost to individuals facing an unplanned pregnancy. 1-800-928-5242.

**Sigma Alpha Lambda** is a National Leadership and Honors Organization recognizing academic achievement and focusing on service and mentoring in the community. With over 40 chapters nationwide, we are seeking motivated students to assist in starting a local chapter (3.0 GPA Required). Contact Rob Miner at rminer@salhonors.org

**Tutor II Applications** part-time. E-mail: admin@ourtown.com  
www.InfoTechTutors.com

**GET CHEAP TEXTBOOKS!** Search 24 bookstores in 1 click! Shipping and taxes automatically calculated. Save! Why pay more? <http://www.bookguy.com>

**Christmas Cash in exchange for mint CDs and LPs.** Everybody's Records pays top dollar! Huge selection of Rap, Indie-Rock, Reggae, Jazz, R&B, and Rock + posters, stickers, and buttons. 6101 Montgomery Rd. Pleasant Ridge, OH OFF with this ad until Dec.15.

### HELP WANTED

Vito's Café, home of the singing servers, is hiring tenders. Please fax resume to 859-442-8625 or call 859-442-9444. [www.vitoscafe.com](http://www.vitoscafe.com)

### NEED AN ATTORNEY?

Contact Charles F. Hollis, III Telephone: 513-721-5672 E-mail: chollis3@bnylaw.com Admitted in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana

### Marketing Representative

Looking for self-motivated individuals with excellent inter-

personal skills for marketing rep position. Job requires 20 hours a week. \$7-\$10/hr plus commission. Avg. nkl rep earns \$362/week. Flexible schedule for students and others looking for part-time. Full-time pay for part-time work. No telemarketing, paid training. Serious inquiries only. Call Rob @ 513-378-5611.

**Gymnastics coach needed.** ASAP. Excellent pay. No experience required. Located in Walton, Kentucky. Contact Megan Jones at (859) 866-0908.

### For Rent

Spacious, bright, two bedroom apartment. Free heat. Park Hills. \$495.00/month. Please call Mark 513-503-9775.

**\$600 Group Fundraiser Scheduling Bonus** Four hours of your group's time plus free (yes, free) fundraising solutions equals \$1000-\$2000 in earnings for your group. Call today for a \$600 bonus when you schedule your non-sales fundraiser with Campus Fundraiser. Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888) 923-3238 or visit [www.campus-fundraiser.com](http://www.campus-fundraiser.com)

## crossword

**ACROSS**

- Make small talk
- Stage attendee
- Cousin of bingo
- Hot flower?
- Greek god of war
- Fencing feat
- "East of Eden" twin
- Wishes undone
- Snicker
- Wilber or Orville

**DOWN**

- Barrett of early Pink Floyd
- Unmasker's exclamation
- Classify
- Genetics letters
- Gumshoe
- Twosome
- Beeped
- Conservative faction
- Taxing method
- ET's vehicle
- Anatomical networks
- Cancellations of lovers
- Perfect places
- Silent assent
- Uncertainties
- Palmas
- Astor
- Wesley
- Turf
- Sole cleaner
- Life-stage event
- Dinner seating choice
- Hoover
- Dam's lake
- Songstress
- Tort
- Kofi of the U.N.
- Diminutive suffix
- Fabric fluff
- Artist's undercoat

**CRAVING**

- Piano parts
- Talons
- Part of HST
- Stear clear of Zesty flavor
- First First Lady
- Island west of Curacao
- Lascivious look
- EXON, formerly
- Photographic solutions
- Fencing tools
- Godless of love
- Born as
- Bullring cheer
- Control
- Dashboard gauge, for short
- Encounter
- Forum wear
- Housing grp.
- Fully equipped
- Swelled heads
- Hocks
- Stage front
- Pigskin shovels
- Stiff, frilled collar
- Tire patterns
- Units
- Seine tributary
- Pocket breads
- Of a people; prof.
- Sudden outpouring
- First Lady of the '50s
- Pain and suffering
- Auditions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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### LAST WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

SLAM GALA COATS  
NODE RIAL JSSE  
AGIN ANTI ALTAR  
FOOTINTHEDOOR  
UNSAID ENV OSS  
LIST DIANNE  
SRS OOPS SPAIN  
HEADINTHECLOUDS  
INLET EURO TEE  
REEFER ELUL  
ESS IRS OPERAS  
STONGUEINCHEEK  
OSAGE MODE RAGE  
BELLE BULL EDIE  
INKED ALES REST

"The Daily Crossword" Edited by Wayne Robert Williams (KRT)

Handwriting on the wall, e.g.  
Outdoor celebration  
Polo vaccine developer  
Pouch  
— for the money...

Answers to this week's crossword will be published online at [www.northerner.com](http://www.northerner.com)



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and examination periods, from  
August through May.

Views expressed do not  
represent the opinions of the  
administration, faculty or the  
student body.

# viewpoints Letters to the editor

npr

norse poll responses

Compiled by Ashley Thomas

Do you think  
professors should  
be allowed to drop  
students from class  
if they do not show  
up the first day?



Hope Marksherry  
Freshman, environmental  
science

"Yes, at least show up  
on the first day."



Mahmoud Annouache  
Sophomore, fine arts

"No, not for the first day.  
Maybe after the first  
week."



Jennifer Lantz  
Sophomore, political  
science

"No, at least give the student  
until the second or third day  
of class."



Randy Duke  
Sophomore, English

"No. The first week is  
acceptable. After that, no."



Rachel Mothershead  
Freshman, pre-med

"No, the student could be  
out of town, have family  
problems, etc."



Zac Rizzo  
Freshman, political  
science

"No, someone may have a  
valid excuse for not showing  
up."

## How to write

## The Northerner

Editors and staff of The Northerner welcome input  
from the campus community. Submit letters in the  
following format:

- E-mail letters to the editor to [northerner@nku.edu](mailto:northerner@nku.edu), or submit letters by visiting the online edition at [www.thenortherner.com](http://www.thenortherner.com).
- Letters must include writer's name, telephone number, class year and major.
- Letters must be 400 words or less.

- Letters must be received on the Friday before publication.
- Event or organization announcements will not be printed on the Viewpoints pages. Submit to Sarah Santos, [santos1@nku.edu](mailto:santos1@nku.edu).
- The Northerner reserves the right to edit for content and space.

on campus Thursday afternoon and was surprised to see a new addition to the paper – The Onion. I had heard of The Onion vaguely but had never read it. I laughed so hard.

I took the paper home to my husband (who is also an NKU student) and he was so stoked that The Onion was included in The Northerner. We both hope that you will include The Onion

in The Northerner every week; it is a great addition!  
Thank you again, whoever decided to include The Onion is a genius!

Stephanie & Kevin Traylor

Stephanie is a junior psychology major. Kevin is a senior anthropology major.

## Article a nice tribute but missing information

Dear Editor,

It was wonderful to see an article highlighting the exhibition of "Her Story Must Be Told: Women's Voices from the Holocaust" in the Dec. 1 edition of The Northerner. The article, however, omitted an important piece of information that I would like to share with the campus community. "Her Story Must Be Told: Women's Voices from the Holocaust" is a traveling exhibit which was created by The Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education at Hebrew Union College and was briefly on loan to Northern Kentucky University.

It should also be noted that the appearance of this exhibit on our campus was made possible through the joint sponsorship of the NKU Holocaust Education Resource Center, The Office of Affirmative Action and Multicultural

Affairs, The Women's Studies Program and the Office of First-Year Programs. In addition, the hard work of Suzanne Deluca, Nancy Kersell and Kim Kattus should be noted in securing and displaying "Her Story Must Be Told: Women's Voices from the Holocaust" during the month of November.

While the exhibit has returned to The Center students, faculty, staff and community members who missed it may view information about this and other exhibits online at <http://www.huc.edu/chce/index.htm> or take the short drive across the river to the Hebrew Union College campus to the Center itself.

Vicki Steiha

Director, Office of First-Year Programs

## The Onion a welcome addition to newspaper

Dear Editor,

I picked up The Northerner

## editorial board

# Write for paper, not on it

### STAFF EDITORIAL

The New Yorker said The Onion is "arguably the most popular humor periodical in world history."

The Washington Post said it "makes its readers tear-eyed with laughter."

It has won 10 Webby Awards, the Thurber Prize for American Humor and its six books have topped the New York Times' Bestseller List for weeks on end.

Yet when The Northerner distributes a special edition of this particular publication as a paid advertisement, it is met with something that can only be

referred to as pseudo-activism. In actuality, it was more of a sophomoric prank better reserved for the high school hallways.

In an act of petty vandalism, a clever individual wrote offensive questions (such as "Why is The Northerner sponsoring this sexist shit?") on copies of our Dec. 1 insert of The Onion's print edition and slipped them into newsstands to reflect his or her opinion.

But attacking a newsstand to get your point across isn't going to do much good. It's kind of like throwing a brick through your living room window

because you don't like what's on TV.

Of all the letters to the editor received this week, the only one to directly address the issue of The Onion was complimentary in nature. Though the response is welcomed with great thanks, it's fairly unimportant when it comes to tackling issues with the media. The Northerner continues to strive to create an interactive environment for open exchange between the media and the readers – that's a key to creating balancing coverage.

Here are some good starting points to establishing a dialog with The Northerner. The

Viewpoints page is an opportunity for readers and the editorial staff to interact. Any reader is afforded the opportunity to write letters to the paper and call these issues to attention. We've published many of them which the culprit may have read if he or she wasn't busy slandering newsstands.

Also, The Northerner is always hiring staff writers willing to address these issues through the column and developed stories, not hastily scrawled obscenities. Journalists don't always cover a concerned student just cover a newsstand with a sheet of paper.

## editorial note

# Santa exists in holiday spirit

### BY STEVE FUNARO

Staff Writer  
[northerner@nku.edu](mailto:northerner@nku.edu)

Dear Santa,

My name is Steve Funaro. I am a young man that lives in Kentucky. I am sure you know who I am. I have been on your lists for quite some time now. I have been a while since I have written but I thought I could make a little bit of this year.

When I was about 12 years old, I found out that there was "no such thing" as Santa Claus. So, due to your non-existence I have held off writing until now.

You see, I have come to an understanding: You do exist.

I know, I know – my 7-year-old nephew could have told me the same thing, but as I have gotten older, I have become more and more skeptical. Although I don't think you look the way most people imagine, I believe in you again.

Allow me to explain my change of heart. A week or so ago, while Christmas shopping I came across a little boy who had just gotten his picture taken with you. His older brother was telling him that you did not exist but the younger child was having none of it. He told his brother,

"Just because you don't think he exists doesn't mean it's true."

I didn't think much of that until I went out later to the grocery store. Alissa, my 8-month-old daughter, just kept getting over being sick. We came across an elderly man who began talking to our baby about Christmas and asking her if she was excited. She broke into laughter. I smiled and after a moment of quiet reflection, I came to the conclusion that you do exist. You may not wear a big red coat, have a big fat belly or a long white beard, but the spirit of Christmas, you stand for lives in everyone.

Since that night, I have felt myself being a bit more jolly. When my checks get rosy, I look in the mirror and I imagine I can see Santa Claus smiling back at me. I know you see all of this and perhaps it brings a smile to your face as well. So the next time someone tells me you don't exist, I will tell them to go look in the mirror. Perhaps they will see the same thing I do.

Merry Christmas, Santa. Hopefully when you check our list you will give me a check in the nice column this year – I don't need another lump of coal.

# Sanity's AWOL in war on drugs

### BY SIDNEY ZION

New York Daily News

The latest battle in the great War on Drugs showed up in the Supreme Court Monday with the feds arguing that if sick or dying people are allowed to use homegrown marijuana for their pain, the price on the streets will go down.

In the logic of the war department, this would have a terrible impact on interstate commerce, where, presumably, Congress has an interest in promoting the sale of marijuana.

If this strikes you as crazy, it's because you don't understand the law, the necessary reach of a government that is grounded on the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. We are talking now of the staff of

lawyers and judges, who, when it comes to drugs, display no immunity from going AWOL from reality.

First, the facts of the two cases out of California, which the top court heard this week. One involved a woman with inoperable brain cancer, the other a woman whose severe back spasms require marijuana.

By referendum, California voters passed a law permitting the use of marijuana under a doctor's order to relieve a variety of medical ailments. Nine other states followed suit.

The federal drug enforcers answered by busting both women. The U.S. Court of Appeals in California ruled for them on the grounds their conduct did not fall within Congress' authority to regulate interstate commerce.

You might think the government would let cases like this pass or at least show benign neglect. We're not talking about legalization of narcotics here, just medicalization, just humanity.

But the War on Drugs has no interest in such sentimentality. This war is 90 years old with nothing to show but failure, combined with rampant corruption.

It doesn't matter. The more we lose, the more we spend. In the Supreme Court arguments, the government estimated that the marijuana market alone accounts for \$10.5 billion a year – then asked the court to knock out California's law in the name of helping the war succeed!

The argument that home-grown pot had an impact on interstate commerce rests on a 1942 Supreme Court decision that allowed the feds to punish a

wheat grower for withholding his home consumption from the Agriculture Department's regulations. The reason? If he hadn't used it for his family, he'd have brought it to the marketplace, thus raising the price of wheat, which Congress wanted.

Justice Anthony Scalia said he had always thought that case was a joke, but now he opined that it was the law. Scalia, who votes for states' rights except when he doesn't – see Gore v. Bush – said that the old wheat ruling looked right to him now.

Students of Scalia, the sharpest man on the court, might have thought he could separate the wheat from the weed. But the politics of drugs has a way with the finest of minds, and according to reporters covering the court, the majority is going to overturn the California law.

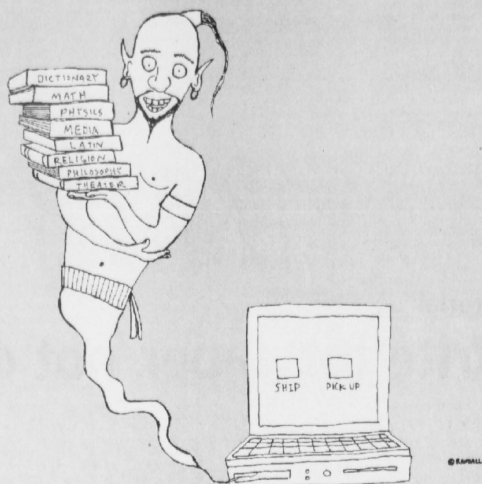
## GENERAL EDITORIAL POLICY

The views expressed on the Viewpoints page do not necessarily represent the views of The Northerner, its editors or its writers. The individual articles express those of the authors. The Northerner and its staff respect the right to a free and open dialogue as allowed under the First Amendment.

## STAFF EDITORIAL POLICY

The staff editorial reflects the views and opinions of The Northerner staff. Staff editorials are written by a senior staff member. Topics are determined weekly by a majority vote among the editorial board, which is composed of all section editors, assistant editors and senior staff members.

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**1. How did the tradition of decorating evergreens at Christmas begin?**

The tradition of decorating evergreens can be traced back to ancient times in Rome and Egypt in celebration of the winter solstice. In 1510, the first Christmas tree was displayed in Riga, Latvia. Early decorations included ribbon, food, lace and tin. The custom was later brought to America during the Revolutionary War by Hessian mercenaries.

**2. What is the height of the tallest tree in history?**

The world's tallest recorded Christmas tree was a 221-foot Douglas fir at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle in 1950. In 2001, the tallest artificial tree stood at 170.6 feet and was displayed at Moinhos de Vento Park, Porto Alegre, Brazil. Also known as the "Peace Tree," it was made of green PVC foliage and had a lightning rod and flashing lights to warn aircraft.

**3. Can I buy a tree, sight unseen?**

Yes. Approximately 330,000 real Christmas trees each year are sold via the Internet or catalog.

**4. How long does it take a Christmas tree to grow?**

Depending on the variety, the average tree takes seven years to grow 6 feet, the average retail height. Some trees require 15 years of growth to reach the same height.

**5. How do trees get that perfect shape?**

Evergreens do not naturally grow into the picture-perfect shape that is popular for Christmas trees. As trees grow, farmers control their shape through regular shearing. By using clippers to control the width and form of the branches, farmers force trees to grow into the popular cone shape.

**6. What are the most popular Christmas tree varieties?**

The most popular Christmas tree varieties include:



**7. What should I expect when I go to a farm to cut my own tree?**

Here are some tips from the National Christmas Tree Association:

- Beware of fire-ant mounds, tree stumps, an occasional blackberry vine, uneven ground and sharp saws.

- Wear comfortable shoes and old clothes. Bring rain gear if the weather is threatening. Also bring several pairs of work gloves. Leave your pets at home, or keep them leashed at all times.
- Saws are usually provided by the farm operator.

- Some farms measure and price their trees individually, others sell them by the foot. Ask about the pricing policy before heading out in the field.

- Select the tree that fits your pre-determined needs (ceiling height, type of foliage, etc.). Check the trunk to be sure that it is sufficiently straight. Keep in mind that pines will usually have, at least, some crook in their trunks. Also check that the tree has a sufficiently long handle to accommodate your stand.

- Cutting the tree is easiest as a two-person project. The person who is cutting usually lies on the ground, while the helper holds the bottom limbs up.

- Bring the tree to the processing area where it will be cleaned and netted. Netting makes transporting and handling the tree substantially easier.

- When you are checking out, remember to pick up a tree removal bag. It can be used as a tree skirt and then pulled up around the tree to help keep the floors clean when the tree is being taken down.

**8. Where are most Christmas trees grown?**

There are about 15,000 tree growers in the United States, with farms in every state. The top Christmas tree-producing states are Oregon, California, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

**9. How much do Americans spend on Christmas trees?**

More than 23 million real Christmas trees were sold in 2003, valued at \$791 million. The average Christmas tree costs \$33.80.

# TREE TRUTHS

## Facts, tips and trivia about the holiday evergreen



**10. How can I keep my Christmas tree fresh?**

Proper watering and care are necessary to keep a tree fresh. The following tips can keep a tree fresh and hydrated through the holiday season:

- When shopping for a tree, choose one that is not losing needles or fading. Both are signs of excessive dryness.

- Make a fresh cut before placing the tree in its stand to allow maximum water absorption.

- The average tree needs 1 quart of water a day. Additives such as aspirin or commercial powders are not necessary and could harm the tree.

- Place the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces or television sets, which could cause the tree to dry out.

**11. Where is the national Christmas tree?**

The national Christmas tree can be found on the White House lawn.

In 1923, President Coolidge started the tradition of the national Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

**12. Where can I find the best tree in the United States?**

Every year, members of the National Christmas Tree Association pick the best tree and name it grand champion.

The award-winning tree is presented to the president and the first family each year to be displayed inside the White House.

In 1923, President Coolidge started the tradition of the national Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

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THE CHAPERIN WHITE HOUSE

President George W. Bush and Laura Bush

stand in front of the

2002 Christmas tree.

**13. Has the government ever made any tree regulations?**

The government once banned the use of tinsel because it contained lead and was a health hazard. Today's tinsel is made of plastic and is safe to use. President Teddy Roosevelt banned Christmas trees from the White House for a time because he thought the tradition was harmful to the environment and wanted to encourage conservation.

**14. Am I hurting the environment if I display a real tree?**

Ninety-eight percent of Christmas trees are harvested from farms. For every tree harvested, two to three seedlings are planted in its place. Christmas trees also create oxygen, which benefits the environment. One acre of Christmas trees can produce enough oxygen for 18 people.

**15. What is flocking and why is it used?**

Flocking is spraying adhesive coating to the branches of Christmas trees. The branches of a flocked tree look as if they are covered in snow. Colors other than white are also available.

**16. Are real trees more popular than artificial ones?**

Most people prefer artificial trees because they require little water. During the 2002 Christmas season, almost 50 percent of households displayed an artificial tree. Only 21 percent used real trees.

**17. What are some popular alternatives to traditional Christmas trees?**

In warmer regions, many people choose to decorate palm trees instead of the traditional evergreen. Some choose to make their own tree out of everyday items, such as lights and drinking glasses.

**18. Are Christmas trees recyclable?**

Real Christmas trees can be used in a variety of ways after the holidays. The trunk and branches can be converted into mulch for the garden. They can also be used as bird feeders or as a refuge for fish in private ponds.

**19. Can I replant my tree after the holidays?**

Trees that can be replanted, also called "living trees," are gaining in popularity. Living trees are sold with their roots intact so they can be potted or planted when taken home.

**20. Are real trees a fire hazard?**

Fresh Christmas trees that are watered regularly are generally not a fire hazard. Less than 0.001 percent of Christmas trees are involved in a fire.

—Daniel

Cooper

Fort Worth

Star-Telegram

# campuscalendar

## wednesday

- Book Connection brown bag lunch from noon to 1 p.m. in BEP 111.
- BWO, BMO and NAACP open night 8 p.m. in the UC Ballroom. Admission is \$1 or one canned good.

## thursday

- Norsin' Around Mini-Bash from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in Norse Commons.
- "Feast for Finals" in Norse Commons from 8 to 11 p.m.
- Free seminar "Tax Savings Strategies for Business Owners" in BEP 461 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Student Education Association Holiday party in BEP 350 from 4 to 5 p.m.
- Women's Basketball game at Lewis University at 5:30 p.m.
- Men's Basketball game at Lewis University at 7:45 p.m.

## friday

- Last day of classes.
- NKU Vocal Jazz Ensemble performance in Greaves Concert Hall at 8 p.m. Student tickets \$3.

## saturday

- Women's Basketball game at SIUE at 1 p.m.
- Men's Basketball game at SIUE at 3:15 p.m.
- "Shakespeare Goes to Opera" in Greaves Concert Hall at 8 p.m.

## sunday

- "Shakespeare Goes to Opera" in Greaves Concert Hall at 8 p.m.

## monday

### Finals begin

- FRS online training in the Lewis Administrative Building room 215 from 10 to 11:15 a.m.

## tuesday

- FRS online training in the Lewis Administrative Building room 215 from 10 to 11:15 a.m.

To place an event contact Sarah Santos at 859-572-5859

# Children exhibit LEGO creations

By KATIE WALKER  
Contributor  
northerner@nku.edu

Just when LEGOs has just taken on a whole new meaning. When some talented youngsters get together, they don't just build planes, trains and automobiles. They build robots; fully functioning, specially programmed robots. The youngsters eager to show everyone what they can do. Approximately 300 children from across Kentucky were competing at Northern Kentucky University Jan. 7 in the Kentucky State FIRST LEGO League Tournament. The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) considered the little league of the FIRST Robotics Competition, is the result of a partnership between FIRST and the LEGO Company. FLL extends the FIRST concept of inspiring children ages 9 through 14 in science and technology by using real-world concepts and hands-on experimentation. Participants can build a robot to compete in a friendly robot game designed for their age group. Using LEGO bricks and other elements such as sensors, motors and gears when they construct and program their unique robots, teams gain hands-on experience in engineering and computer programming principles. The teams, comprised of four to 10 kids, have been working for months on their creations. But it's not all fun and games. The teams not only have to design and program a robot that will maneuver through an obstacle course, but also complete an intensive research project. "The competition consists of four parts," said Linda Neenan, Executive Director of

iSPACE, a company that sponsors the competition. "Twenty-five percent of the total score will go to each of the following areas: research project, robot design, team work and table competition. The teams had to research and design a robot that would make life easier for someone with a disability, relating to the theme "No Limits," a theme about accessibility. "Students were asked to spend a day in the life of someone who has a disability," Neenan said. "Taking into account the adaptations they had to make, they were instructed to create a technologically assistive device. "The nearest thing is that they're creating real products that could possibly be developed and used in 10 years from now." The obstacle course—a 4-foot by 8-foot table with LEGO obstacles that represent difficult tasks with a disability would face—is a real test of competition. Each team has two and a half minutes to complete as many of the tasks as possible. Tasks may be picking up glasses or pushing chairs around a table. The best run out of the course wins. The tournament is the second statewide competition in Kentucky FLL history. Event coordinators are expecting 700 spectators to attend. "It's a big deal," Neenan said. "The kids go all out. They make up cheers, they wear uniforms and they have hundreds of fans in the stands. This competition gives kids who are more academically-oriented a chance to be champions, a chance to be a jock." The teams, from public, private and parochial schools, will compete for awards such as the coveted Director's Award and also Best Programming, Best Design, Best Teamwork, Most Spirit and a Rookie Team prize.

# northernerlife

Section Editors  
Josh Blair & Amy Ehrnreiter  
859-572-5859

# Art grads say farewell

Senior exhibit displays the culmination of art students' college education, maturity

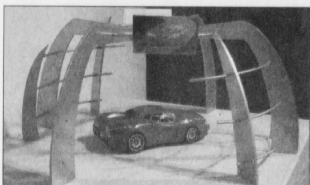
By KRISTIN KOESTER  
Contributor  
northerner@nku.edu

After a long journey, nine senior art students can finally close the books for good. The soon-to-be Northern Kentucky University alumni have some of their best work displayed in the fine arts gallery. Mike Maydak, who has been entertaining NKU with his comic strip *Slingshot* for the last two years, is exhibiting a different body of work. Maydak presents his newest creation "Worlds," where he takes cartooning to a new level. "Worlds" consists of five well-developed characters designed to fight and win. These 32-by-40-inch illustrated characters are brilliantly colored and drawn with such clean lines they appear to be popping off the page. Maydak's favorite character, Dr. Zarabara, the member of the mind, modeled after Maydak's drawings of professors, oozes creepy creativity and the possibility of a dark side. Maydak started his college career as a journalism major, but fell short of words. Stumbling on to illustration, Maydak found it enabled him to portray detail that he was never able to achieve with words. If you enjoy Maydak's black and white comic strip, you should really see what he does with color on a large format. Almost comic-like, Clint Woods presents viewers with a visual diary of computer-manipulated images that are mostly black and white with a pastel splash of color to draw the viewer's eye to the focal point. The entire body of work is a little eerie and murky, while at the same time playful. Woods posed himself behind a mask made of a long, pointed, beak-like nose; then ventured into his past memories. Woods' work is a creepy yet tantalizing image that draws the audience into his weird world. Woods said he believes "the personalities are manipulated images of an accumulation of memories and experiences." He told a sequential story of his life in the past year from break-ups to his baby girl growing up. In addition to the wonderfully dark, black and white work, Woods made a movie using these same images from his work, and brought them to life with emotion, music and movement. It's nice to have another student displaying the greater art world mixing 2-D, 3-D and video arts. If you think the prints are morbid, you will think the movie deadly. The short film is necessary to see, seeing as how it is more interesting than many big-budget flicks released this year. On the other side of the creative spectrum, Kathleen Piercefield stands with her printmaking process, utilizing the paper plate lithograph. Piercefield's work is a reaction to a re-reading of Melville's age-old story of *Moby Dick*. While attending Dr. Robert Wallace's class "Melville and the Arts," Piercefield created this series dealing with more than the famous whale, but the people and cultures that the crew would have come across during their voyage. Piercefield said she has "dreamed of the hidden connections that bind all living beings and cultures and revealed in the treasures of the human mind, universal mysteries." Her work is distinctive and mystifying with the use of strange, ancient fish and naives tattooed "Nepotisms," is a dysfunctional group swing that "enables one to observe or participate in an exaggerated idea where success and longevity is a disjunctive group swing that allows the search for the great elusive white whale." Blake Sellman's interactive sculpture "Negotiations" is a group of people made of wood that look like they have been used over the past century. Sellman's piece "became a week-long playland in the Ceramics and Sculpture

Building before it was moved to the gallery. Many students have used it to socialize and work out their frustrations by swinging and bumping into one another. It is more like a mosh pit with seats and rope. The small gallery displays the work of theater's powerful graphic design major. Terri Woerner presents "An Emperor's Dynasty," which deals with illustration and the creation of a deck of cards using her graphic design skills and interest in history. Jennifer Ferris uses graphic design to "illustrate the dynamics if forensic sciences in a murder case." A must see for all those CSI buffs. Jacob Wilhelmus has taken his love for cars and graphic design and combined them to build his own dream car for Mitsubishi, the D800XE. His car depicts style, power and the need for speed. Wilhelmus has developed his own industrial design without an industrial design department to support him. He makes you want to drive a car. These and other artists' works are on display until Dec. 17 in the Fine Arts galleries. The galleries are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Josh Blair / Photographer  
Above: The senior art exhibition showcases the talents of nine soon-to-be NKU graduates. Below: Jacob Wilhelmus spent many hours sculpting a clay model of his concept car.



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# 'Romeo and Juliet' actors adapt to 1950s setting

By AMY EHREITER  
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For the NKU Department of Theatre's rendition of "Romeo and Juliet," director Mike King chose to set the play in the 1950s to help the audience connect with the action happening on stage. The actors not only had to play characters from 1595, but also take into consideration the customs of the 1950s. John West played the lead role of Romeo. In the past, West has landed supporting roles in NKU productions. He really proved himself as an actor in his role. Although he portrayed Romeo as a sappy love-struck young man, rather than a leading lover, it was a decision that he made as an actor and it was successful with the aid of the other characters surrounding him. Juliet, played by senior Tracy Weiler, is the epitome of glamorous innocence. Weiler successfully possessed the look and attitude of a 16-year-old girl falling in love for the first time. The stage chemistry between Juliet and the Nurse, played by Liz Goins, was unbeatable. The duo complemented each other with their opposite characters.

Juliet was dependent on her parents, Nurse and Romeo throughout the entire play, whereas Nurse was a caregiver and independent. Nurse's boisterous personality and her odd sense of humor helped her become the comic relief of the Capulet family, whereas Mercutio, played by Timothy Rhoades, was the comical character of the Montague family. The choices he made as an actor were very contrasting to those of the other characters in the play. The vulgar actions and bold gestures won him the role of comical bad boy. "Romeo and Juliet" was the starting point for a few freshmen this year. Vanessa Barrett used the character of Benvolio to break into the NKU play scene. The great emotion in her voice along with her mannerisms helped her shine among the number of supporting characters. Either first time jitters or getting lost in the emotions of her character caused her rate to be a little fast at times, but "Romeo and Juliet" was a great start to her career at NKU. The most impressive character in the play was Capulet, played by Josh Beshears. He naturally came across as the believability of his character

and his stage presence. From the moment he entered, the audience's attention focused on the authoritative, charismatic father and businessman. His projection was perfect and the emotion he put into his character immaculate. The costume design played a large part in the appearance of the play. The contrasting costumes helped the audience identify which side the different characters sided with. Not only were the different families dressed in different colors, but the colors also symbolized the characteristics of the families. Blue hues were the dominant colors of the Montague family. The cool colors showed passive characters, as seen in the opening scene of the play. When Montague, played by Aaron LaVigne, and Lady Montague, Denise Devlin, made their first appearances, they were collected and passive. On the other side of the color wheel, the Capulet family was dressed in red hues. The warm colors showed the hot temper of Capulet that was displayed throughout the entire play. Like her husband, Lady Capulet, played by Christine Krumme, was also a short-tempered character.



Photo contributed by NKU Department of Theatre

The set consisted of two wooden levels. The lower level was used mostly for outdoor scenes and for the Capulet house in certain scenes. The upper level was reserved for a bedroom and the infamous balcony scene. Supporting the levels were metal brackets that gave the Frank Sinatra inspired set a more sturdy and industrial appearance. Although the play has been performed countless times during the past four centuries, this 1950s rendition is worth the admission.



# artsentertainment

## Shop smart when buying holiday decorations

By JAMIE MCVIER  
 Reporter  
 northern@nku.edu

It may be your first Christmas on your own, and you have to start on your very own collection of Christmas decorations.

Don't let it put a dent in your wallet. Here are some great holiday ideas for college students.

First, Target seemed to have a majority of the Christmas decorating essentials at reasonable prices. Their six-foot Christmas tree for \$16.99 may be a little big for a dorm room, but it's a good deal if you live in an apartment.

Target's three-foot multicolored pre-lit tree, priced at \$14.99, seems more practical to display in your dorm room window.

If a tree, no matter the size, seems impractical, Pier 1 has a 12-inch tree-shaped mini ornament holder for \$12. It's made out of wire, but it's a good substitute for a large tree.

Target also has convenient coordinating colors, which

makes it easy to match decorations and have a color scheme.

When you first walk into Target, make sure you check out "The 1 Spot," where everything is \$1. You'll find packages of 12 playful Christmas cards, gift wrap, pre-matched boxes and bows, holiday mugs and a few other gifts for \$1 each. Wal-Mart has packages of 32 traditional Christmas cards for \$2 each.

If you're looking for an edible decoration, Target has candy canes in assorted flavors for \$1.99. This store also has an entire aisle devoted to holiday candy priced 99 cents or less.

You can then fill in empty spaces on your tree with small ORBS from Target. Twenty-four mini balls are \$2.99. Hooks are not included but a box of 150 can be purchased at Wal-Mart for 78 cents. Meijer also carries a box of 18 medium balls for \$1.88.

The key to saving money when buying ornaments is to buy in bulk. Avoid buying separate decorations because prices may be higher.

Target has clear and multicolored mini 100 count

Christmas tree lights for \$1.79. And just in case you're worried about wasting electricity by leaving the lights on, they're up to 40 percent energy saving, as well. These lights can be used to light up a Christmas tree or to live a boring dorm window.

For personalizing your tree, Target has five-piece novelty ornament sets, which include themes such as Spiderman, Sponge Bob Square Pants, Superman, NFL, NASCAR, Hello Kitty, Sesame Street, Scooby Doo and Disney for \$5.99.

To pull everything together, drape a garland around your tree or around your dorm room. Wal-Mart has an 18-foot garland for \$1 that comes in gold, blue, green and silver.

For wrapping those presents under your tree, wrapping paper can be bought cheapest at any dollar store. You'll find a 40-foot roll of paper for \$1. A bag of 30 multi-colored bows can be found at Target for 39 cents as well.

To get completely in the holiday mood, get the smell of Christmas. Pier 1 sells Cinnamon Twist Infused Candles for \$2.50. Wal-Mart carries sugar cookie

and peppermint-scented candles for \$1 each.

For your walls or chimney, Wal-Mart has a simple red felt stocking for 74 cents, or you can upgrade to a fuzzy (less cheap-looking) red stocking from Target for \$2.99.

Add the finishing touch to your decorating by hanging up a wreath for \$3.96 from Wal-Mart.

### \$20 Dorm Decoration Package

- Wal-Mart 18-foot garland \$1
- Target mini multicolored and white lights 100 count \$1.79
- Pier 1 12 inch mini ornament holder \$12
- Wal-Mart 150 ornament hooks \$7.88
- Wal-Mart red felt stocking \$7.4
- Meijer 18 medium ball ornaments \$1.88

Total \$18.19



Illustration by Adam McVier

## Synthesizers and horns fuse punk, jazz on Cougars EP

By CHAD SNOWDEN  
 Reporter  
 northern@nku.edu

Eight-piece, Chicago rock band, Cougars, have only been around a short time, releasing their debut LP *Nice, Nice* in 2003. Rigorous touring and word-of-mouth spread by the sonic brilliance of *Nice, Nice*, helped prove Cougars' point against those that think rock 'n' roll is dead.

Enter their newest release, *Manhandler* (Thick Records),

to further solidify the argument. Six songs of raw intensity blanketed ever so gently by the horn section and synthesizer. Dreamy atmospheres too boisterous for sleep coupled with soulful whiskey drowned vocals lead this 20-minute masterpiece through its humorously titled tracks.

The title track surges into a beat-heavy verse before exploding into the bridge where the horns take over. Sounding like jets from a ski bind and more like Satan's personal

brass/woodwind section, the horns only help drive the dizzy sound of Cougars to a jazz/punk fusion.

The drums reinforce the smoky jazz club vibe of *Manhandler*. In "Phil Collins," the drums help to confuse just what the Cougars next move will be. The album's longest track goes through about four different songs within one. Instead of coming out with too much to listen to, Cougars show just how much can be done in four and a half

minutes without sounding convoluted.

You would imagine with eight members that Cougars might sound like a big mess. To the contrary, *Manhandler* leaves listeners wondering why more bands are not trying out the band geeks they made fun of in high school.

The searing guitars of "Vegas Makes Her" introduce the EP's crown jewel with a full room of drum down a path of strange timings and on a dime stops. Cougars fill the air with

wonder, ferocious riffs and, of course, trumpet and sax like the sound of a car accident where the car horns harmonize. "Cookietown" breaks down into a decidedly slower pace to bring this record to a beautiful end. Almost sounding like a song from the end of a movie, or a situation of closure.

Cougars have an amazing way of creating moods and with one last note the EP comes full circle and fades out.

[www.thickrecords.com](http://www.thickrecords.com)



Contributed by Thick Records

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Edition 35, Issue 14Sports  
Scene

→ with Kyle Brown

NLB  
needs  
drug  
testing

With the recent revelations about the steroid use of Barry Bonds and Jason Giambi, there is speculation about the affect this will have on Major League Baseball.

One thing is certain: whatever action baseball takes, it will be years too late to curb the drug problem.

For years, the NFL has realized the need for drug testing. Steroid abusers such as Lyle Alzado became the poster children for new drug testing rules.

Every few years, a new performance-enhancing drug is added to the league's banned substance list.

The Olympics always seem to end up stripping athletes for drug use after the games.

There has always been the thought that football and Olympic sports such as track and field, wrestling and weightlifting featured the most steroid and performance-enhancing drug users. There is now evidence that nearly every sport is not immune from banned substances.

Division II athletics recently took an important step towards stopping performance enhancing drugs. On Aug. 1, new legislation was passed with the backing of the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguard and Medical Aspects of Sports to begin year-round drug testing. After customarily testing only Division II football players, all sports will now be included in the testing. The movement to test in all sports was put into effect after the committee found ephedrine and steroid use in nearly every sport, including the levels reported for football.

Positive test results in Division II were comparable to those found in Division I. During the August 2002-August 2003 testing period, 98.6 percent of Division II football players tested negative, compared to 98.5 percent in Division I football.

Due to limited funds, Division II athletes will be tested in all sports. Athletes in sports that have been projected as higher-risk are more likely to be tested.

Division II athletics, as well as other sports that have instituted drug testing, have realized that the benefits of drug testing far outweigh the negative aspects.

Professional baseball is a sport that many people have criticized for being behind the times. The people running the sport tend to not know how to market the sport as well as the NFL or NBA.

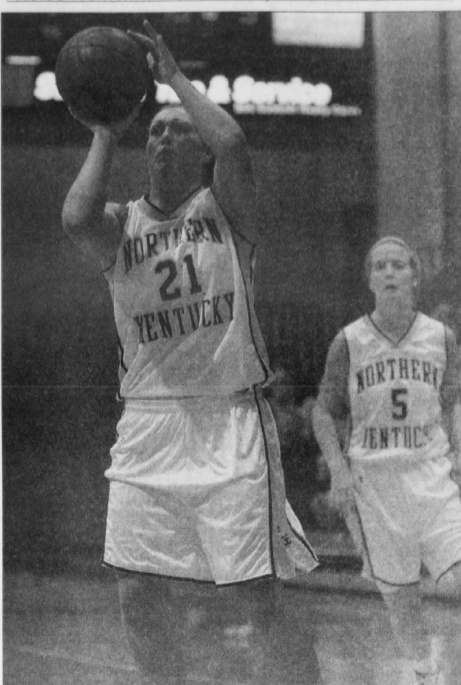
The in charge of Major League Baseball are severely in need of catching up to other sports in drug testing policy. Mark McGwire admitted to taking a performance-enhancing supplement during his pursuit of the single-season homerun record, he was still viewed as a hero by a sport desperately in need of a face to put at its front. After the fact, the supplement he was taking was deemed illegal.

With Bonds chasing the all-time homerun record, the sport will be at a crossroads. Asterisks next to the record are meaningless.

Ensuring the health of the season chasing the record should be the number one concern on baseball's list.

Kyle Brown is the Sports Editor for The Northerner. You can e-mail Kyle at kbrownmka@yahoo.com

## Norse women win at St. Joe's, defeat Pumas 83-70



Blue I Photographer

Connie Myers (front left) scored 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead the Norse past St. Joe's.

Women's hoops  
records first win

RENSELAEER, Ind. - Nikki Perkins scored 20 points and dished out three assists as Northern Kentucky University snapped a season-opening five-game losing streak with an 83-70 win over Saint Joseph's on Dec. 4.

Karyn Creager added 18 points for the Norse, who improved to 1-5 overall, 1-3 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

NKU trailed by 10 (29-19) late in the first half, but the Norse used a 14-4 run to forge a 33-33 tie at the break. Perkins keyed the run by scoring eight points, including two three-point baskets.

In the second half, with NKU leading 42-40, the Norse used a 3-5 run to take a 55-45 lead on a three-point basket by Betsy Clark.

NKU shot at a 57.9 clip from the floor in the final 20 minutes to defeat Saint Joseph's for the 22nd consecutive time.

Connie Myers added 17 points and 12 rebounds for NKU, who won the rebounding battle by a 39-29 margin. The Norse, who have not lost to Saint Joseph's (2-5 overall, 1-3 GLVC) since the 1993-94 season, also converted 31 of 40 free throws, including 24 of 31 in the second half.

On Dec. 2, the Norse lost to Indianapolis in a thrilling 61-58 game.

With NKU holding a 58-57 lead, Davidson drove the right baseline and powered in a layup with 10.1 seconds remaining to give Indianapolis a 59-58 advantage.

After Connie Myers was called for traveling with 4.6

seconds left, Davidson converted two free throws to extend the Indianapolis lead to 61-58.

NKU's Karren Graham was fouled attempting a layup with 1.1 seconds remaining, but she missed both free throws and Indianapolis held on for the victory.

Myers scored 21 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead NKU.

Nikki Perkins came off the bench to score 10 points for the Norse.

Indianapolis was led by Erin

Moran, who scored 10 of her 17 points in the second half.

The Norse return home to play a key GLVC matchup with the Lewis University Flyers on Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m.

\*Article by Sports Information

Race tight  
for HeismanCompetition for biggest honor  
in college football is fierceBy ZACK STATEN  
Staff Writer  
nortnerz@nku.edu

In 2004, NCAA football has seen a season of debates, arguments and controversy. Awarding the Heisman Trophy this year should be no different than the current theme.

Unlike past years, the Heisman race is wide open and should go right down to the wire.

This year's Heisman field includes three quarterbacks of undrafted teams (one is the previous Heisman winner), a record-breaking freshman, an electric sophomore and a 5,000 yard career rusher.

Here is a preview to the Heisman Award Ceremony at the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City.

**Matt Leinart, Southern California** (2990 passing yards, 29 total TD's, 6 int.)

• Why he'll win: Matt Leinart is 23-1 as a starter and has thrown 61 touchdown passes in 24 games. In front of a national audience, Leinart torched rival Notre Dame for 400 yards passing and five touchdowns. Leinart is the quarterback of the top team in the nation, which usually translates into a Heisman Trophy.

• Why he won't win: There aren't many reasons to keep Leinart from winning the Heisman. He did however finish the regular season on a sour note against UCLA with 242 passing yards and an interception with no touchdowns.

**Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma** (1843 rushing yards, 15 TD's)

• Why he'll win: If a freshman should ever win the Heisman Trophy, this should be the year.

Adrian Peterson has already set the freshman rushing record with the Orange Bowl left to play, including a 240-yard performance against rival Kansas. In the Big XII Championship, Peterson continued to impress with a 182-yard and three-touchdown performance.

• Why he won't win: Traditionally the Heisman Trophy is given, almost, as a career award. With that said, Peterson is the best freshman running back in NCAA history, but Heisman voters cringe at the thought of a freshman winning at the Downtown Athletic Club. The last time a freshman was considered for the Heisman was in 1999 when Michael Vick finished third to Ron Dayne.

**Jason White, Oklahoma** (2961 passing yards, 33 passing TD's and 6 int.)

• Why he'll win: Jason White returns to New York as the 2003 Heisman winner. White threw 40 touchdowns passes a year ago and has 33 this season but has improved his completion percentage and touchdown-to-interception ratio from a year ago. He has also led Oklahoma to a Big XII Championship and a second straight berth in the national championship game.

• Why he won't win: Only once in 68 years has a player won the Heisman Trophy twice (Archie Griffin 1973 and 1974). If that's not enough, White has to steal votes from teammate Adrian Peterson in order to recapture the award. The last time a player won the Heisman Trophy and had a teammate finish in the top five was in 1983; Mike Rorier won and Turner Gill of Nebraska finished fourth.

**Alex Smith, Utah** (2624 passing yards, 38 total TD's, 4 interceptions)

• Why he'll win: Alex Smith led the Utes to their highest ranking and only undefeated season in school history. Smith is second in NCAA in quarterback rating, seventh in passing touchdowns, and ninth in completion percentage.

• Why he won't win: Smith and the Utes have not played in three weeks while Leinart, White and Peterson all played on Dec. 4. Heisman voters surely will move those players fresh in their minds to the front of the list. Ultimately, lack of name recognition and national publicity will hurt Smith's chances of taking home the trophy.

**Cedric Benson, Texas** (1764 rushing yards, 20 total TD's)

• Why he'll win: Six of the last nine players to finish their careers with over 5,000 rushing yards have won the Heisman. Benson is fifth in his career sixth all-time with 5,470 rushing yards. Benson also holds the NCAA record for most games with a touchdown at 37.

• Why he won't win: Oklahoma! There is no other reason that Benson shouldn't win this award. In three games against the Sooners, Benson has been held to 167 rushing yards and only one touchdown, including being out rushed by 148 yards in this years match up with Adrian Peterson.

See HEISMAN, page 11

## Men's basketball splits weekend series

RENSELAEER, Ind. - Derek Smith and Pat Cary combined for 44 points and 15 rebounds as Northern Kentucky University held off Saint Joseph's, 90-77, Dec. 4 at the Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse.

Smith scored 24 points and grabbed seven rebounds as NKU improved to 5-2 overall, 2-2 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Cary added 20 points and eight rebounds for the Norse.

NKU built a 54-32 halftime lead by shooting 75 percent (21-for-28) from the field. The Norse also shot a blistering 77.8 percent from behind the three-point arc in the first half.

The Norse opened up with their largest lead (62-38) after two free throws by Cary with 16 minutes remaining. Saint Joseph's rallied behind the play of Sullivan Sykes (21 points) and cut the NKU lead to 73-64 on a layup by Rashad McWine with five minutes left in the

game, but key baskets by Smith and Cary helped the Norse hold on for the road victory.

Kevin Reinhardt finished with 12 points for NKU. Harrison Morton added 10 points for the Norse, who shot 64.2 percent from the field. Jordan Stowers added seven points and five assists for NKU.

Dec. 2, the Norse fell to the Indianapolis, and their high-scoring duo of David Logan and Lawrence Brown, 65-71.

NKU, which trailed by seven points early in the first half, took a 23-22 lead with 4:38 remaining on Sean Rowland's conventional three-point play. Indianapolis, however, countered behind the shooting of Logan, who drained a three-pointer at the halftime buzzer to give the Greyhounds a 40-34 lead at the break.

Logan finished with 26 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and Barnes added

22 points and six rebounds for Indianapolis, which made 10-of-25 three-point attempts. The Greyhounds also won the rebounding battle by a 40-33 margin. Mike Adlbe had 10 points and nine rebounds for Indianapolis.

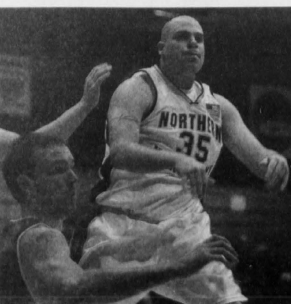
"We are not athletic enough to guard Logan," said NKU coach Dave Berold.

"Barnes also had a really good game for Indianapolis."

Harrison Morton led NKU with 19 points and four assists. Derek Smith finished with 14 points and six rebounds for the Norse, who were held to just 3-for-14 shooting from three-point range. Mike Kelsey scored nine points for the Norse, while Kevin Schuppel added eight points.

NKU will play host to Lewis at 7:45 p.m. Dec. 9 in Regents Hall.

\*Article by Sports Information



Blue I Photographer

Derek Smith helped lead NKU past St. Joe's with 24 points.

## hotseat



→ with John Rasp

In this week's Hot Seat, John interviews Brian Lewin. Brian is a sophomore forward on the men's basketball team.

**John Rasp:** Which of the men's basketball assistants can you beat one-on-one?  
**Brian Lewin:** I can beat Coach Elrod. I like to think I can beat Coach Marshall and Coach Listerman, but I've never played them.

**JR:** How many dunks will you have this year?  
**BL:** Zero. I can't jump.

**JR:** Do girls like basketball players who can make the three or dunk?  
**BL:** They like guys who can make the three. That is why I shoot threes. It's also why Mike Kelsey only shoots threes.

Dunking is overrated because it's only worth two points, while a three is one point more.

**JR:** Which player would you call the "ladies man"?

**BL:** Everyone says that Steve Purdon is, but he is married. Mike Kelsey is also in love. I think Jordan Stowers is...the ladies like him a lot.

**JR:** If NKU were to have a slam-dunk competition and a three-point competition, who would win each of those?  
**BL:** Harrison Morton or Kevin Reinhardt would probably win the slam-dunk competition. For the three-point competition Steve Purdon would win.

**JR:** You've played almost all of the positions on the court. Which one is your favorite?

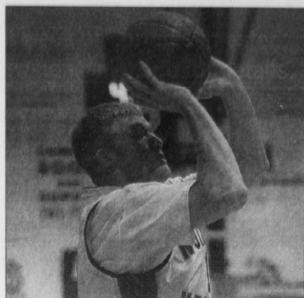
**BL:** I like playing the four position the most because in our system, because the four position steps out and I'm big enough to guard the other teams four. But sometimes they don't step out far enough to guard me.

**JR:** I heard that you like to dump water on yourself before the game. Is this a superstition?  
**BL:** I don't know if it is a superstition or not, but I've been doing it since high school. I take a cup of water and pour it on the top of my forehead and let it drip down. The first time I did it, Schappell thought I was trying to drink it.

**JR:** If you could play another sport here, what would it be?  
**BL:** Golf. I played it in high school and I'm awesome.

**JR:** Would you say that you are the best golfer on the basketball team?

**BL:** From what I've gathered, I would be. I heard that Mike Kelsey is pretty good, but I don't think he has a chance at beating me.



Blue 1 Photographer

Making good shots, Brian Lewin has been a key reserve for NKU.

## Heisman

Continued from page ten

**Reggie Bush, Southern California** (1034 yards from scrimmage, 14 total TD's)

• Why he'll win: Reggie Bush is arguably the most exciting college football player of the last 20 years.

Bush, nicknamed "The President," has had a rushing, receiving, passing touchdown and returned two punts for touchdowns this season. In the season finale against UCLA, Bush gained 277 total yards including touchdown runs from 65 and 81 yards out.

• Why he won't win: Reggie Bush has a major roadblock in his way: Matt Leinart.

Although Reggie Bush can score at any moment from anywhere on the field, Leinart has carried the Trojans for the majority of the season.

Most all of the previous winners of this award have had set positions. Reggie Bush does not.

### Northerner Picks

• **Zack Staten's Pick:** Adrian Peterson

• **Kyle Brown's Pick:**

I'd like to think Adrian Peterson, however the people voting seem to have a problem with a freshman getting the award. I see the USC guys splitting their votes. White won't win two in a row, and Smith is too much of an underdog. By process of elimination, my final pick is the Longhorn's Cedric Benson.

• **Matt Steffen's Pick:**

My pick for the Heisman is Reggie Bush, because he is a versatile type of player.

His stats speak for themselves and should be enough to get him the trophy.

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